

Weekly National Intelligencer.

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No. 390

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER

The subscription price of this paper for a year is THREE DOLLARS, payable in advance. For the long Sessions of Congress (averaging eight months) the price will be Two Dollars; for the short Sessions One Dollar per copy.

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ELECTORAL VOTE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The Legislature of Massachusetts met in special session at Boston on Thursday last, in order to choose Electors to cast the twelve votes of that State for President and Vice President of the United States.

Governor Briggs, in pursuance of whose call the Legislature had assembled, transmitted a statement of the popular vote for Electors, accompanied by a brief communication to the effect that none of the candidates had received a majority of all the votes given, and that therefore the duty of making a choice devolved, by the law of the State, upon the Legislature.

The vote in joint meeting was as follows: For the Taylor and Fillmore candidates, 196; for the Cass and Butler candidates, 65; for the Van Buren and Adams candidates, 37; and one scattering. Total vote 299.

It is therefore settled that the twelve electoral votes of the BAY STATE will be added to the previously ascertained majority of TAYLOR and FILLMORE.

THE VOTE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

We learn from the Raleigh Register that the official returns from all the counties in the State have been received at the Executive office, and that the vote stands thus, (Yancy county excepted, on account of some informality in the return):

Taylor.....43,519
Cass.....34,869

8,650 majority.
Add Yancy, for Taylor.....31 majority.

Making Taylor's majority.....8,681.

Well done, old NORTH CAROLINA! Who shall ever again dare, after this, in thy presence to name Rip Van Winkle?

THE VOTE OF OHIO.—It appears from the official canvass that the whole number of votes polled at the late Presidential Election in Ohio was 328,513. They were given—

For Lewis Cass.....154,783
For Zachary Taylor.....138,356
For Martin Van Buren.....35,374
Majority of Cass over Taylor.....16,427
Majority of Taylor and Van Buren over Cass.....18,994

MAINE.—The official returns, as given in the Augusta Age, show a plurality for Gen. Cass of 4,859 over Taylor. Mr. Van Buren's vote is 12,124. The majority against Cass in the State is 7,265.

LOUISIANA.—The reports of the Presidential vote in all the counties but two of Louisiana make Gen. TAYLOR's majority 3,133. Claiborne and Bienville to be heard from, which will probably diminish this majority by some 150 votes.

"We are surprised to see that several papers give accounts of the election of CHARLES DURKEE, Free Soil; CHARLES COLE, Whig; and JAMES D. DOTY, Locofoco, as Representatives in Congress from Wisconsin. We cannot conceive how this can be, since Wisconsin is only entitled to two representatives in Congress. We shall know, by-and-by, who are elected, and when ascertained will report to our readers."—*Cincinnati Chronicle*.

Our respected contemporary is himself partly in error. Wisconsin is now entitled to only two Representatives, but the act admitting her into the Union as a State provides that after the 4th of March next, and until another census and apportionment shall be made, she shall be entitled to three Representatives. The three Members now elected in Wisconsin are for the Congress which will meet subsequently to the day specified in the above-mentioned act.

"A MINORITY PRESIDENT.—If TAYLOR is elected President, it is by a minority of the popular vote. He has simply a plurality in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Connecticut, and other States. This is the first time in our history that such an event has happened."

So says the Editor of the "Daily Wisconsin," by way of consolation for the defeat of his own candidate. We take occasion, however, to assure him that he has not correctly stated "our history." We have had at least two Presidents who did not receive a majority of the popular vote, one of whom is the present Democratic incumbent of that office, who (three tickets having been before the people) was in a minority by some thousands.

We regret to learn that, on account of ill health, the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT has resigned the Presidency of Harvard College. It being the wish of the Corporation that he should remain in office till near the time when the vacancy can be filled, which can only be done during the session of the Legislature, his resignation will not take effect till the close of the present academic term, about the middle of January.

The Boston Traveller remarks that the three years of Mr. EVERETT's administration have been characterized by a firm moral tone, which has produced a marked and most beneficial change in the discipline of the University.

The American Minister to Brazil, Mr. Ton, occupies the largest and finest private house in Rio. On the 29th of September he gave a splendid ball to upwards of four hundred persons, Brazilians, Americans, and English. It is said to have been the handsomest thing of the kind ever given there, and gave great satisfaction.

A MASSACHUSETTS CHARACTERISTIC.—In the list of nine hundred and seventeen voters in the town of Hingham, (Mass.) there are only two hundred and thirty-nine different names. There are fifty-six Herseys, forty-two Cushings, thirty-eight Spragues, thirty-six Lincolns, thirty-six Gardners, thirty-five Stodders, twenty-one Whittons, and so on. The staid people of that goodly town catch mackerel in summer and make buckets in winter, pursuing the even tenor of their way with out perplexity or care.

We have seen it repeatedly stated in the Democratic journals that the recent Whig triumph is, in the main, attributable to the union of all the odds and ends of factions in its favor. This (says the Lynchburg Virginian) is a singularly unfortunate statement. It has no foundation whatever. The Whig triumph would have been more signal but for third parties. The factions operated against General Taylor. We should have carried New York had Mr. Van Buren not run, and, with still larger majorities, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island. It was the confident hope of the Democrats, after the election of Johnston in Pennsylvania, that all the Whig Abolitionists and Free Soil men would rally upon Van Buren, and that this deduction from Gen. Taylor's strength would give the State to Cass. We have seen that this calculation was not verified. A similar reliance was placed upon the Whig Abolitionists of the Western Reserve in Ohio, and with more justice. They did, almost unanimously, vote for Van Buren, and thus gave the State to Cass. So far from the Whigs being benefited, they were injured, as they always have been, by the factions.

Mr. CLAY.—The following Telegraphic despatch gives the latest intelligence respecting the health of this eminent Statesman:

"LEXINGTON, (Ky.) NOVEMBER 27.

"HENRY CLAY is perhaps in no danger, but is confined to his bed the greater part of the time, and regains his strength very slowly. He is very much debilitated."

SENATOR DOWNS.—This gentleman arrived in this city on the 20th instant, (says the New Orleans Bulletin), on his way to resume his Senatorial duties at Washington. Mr. DOWNS is one of the Opposition members of the Senate who will, we are convinced, avoid all capitious opposition to the administration of President TAYLOR; and, so far as he conscientiously can do so, will afford it a liberal support.

The Whigs of RICHMOND had a great jubilee on Friday night last. The Whigs of PETERSBURG had a brilliant torchlight procession and illumination on Monday night.

TEXAS.—The Governor of this State has been requested by the citizens of Colorado to call an extra session of the Legislature to settle a variety of difficulties that have sprung up respecting settlements under Mexican grants; but he refuses to comply with the request for various reasons, one of which is that the Legislature has not the power to give the relief sought for, that being the proper function of the legal tribunals; and another that the extra session would cost \$20,000, which would more than exhaust the treasury.

FROM NEW MEXICO.

Advices from Santa Fe to the 18th ultimo have been received at St. Louis. Gen. LANE and escort had arrived, and would remain a few days before proceeding to Oregon.

Col. WASHINGTON, the Military-Commander, had arrived, and was well received. He was already making suitable disposition of his forces. The People in Convention adopted a petition to Congress asking for a speedy organization of a Territorial civil Government, and firmly protesting against any dismemberment of their Territory. They do not desire domestic slavery within their borders, and ask to be protected from its introduction among them.

The Locofocos, who had two Generals on their Presidential ticket, are greatly chagrined, and call out shame on the Whigs for supporting a general, a "military hero," and electing him over a "great statesman" like Cass. The Age even seems to doubt the capacity of the people for self-government, and speaks of the large majority for Taylor in any thing but flattering terms. It can't endure generals, and the worst general of all, in the Age's estimation, is the General Result. But if Taylor, whom the Age now abuses, had only consented to call himself a Democrat two years ago, how the Age would have jumped at the chance to nominate him at Baltimore, instead of its "statesman" Cass.

[*Kennett Journal*.]

"LOVE'S LABOR LOST."—We see, says the Portland Advertiser, that many papers are busily at work arranging a Cabinet for Gen. Taylor, and none more so than the Locofoco papers. Indeed, the Cabinet and the officers are now the only matters of interest with the leaders of that party. The object is very evident—first, to hold on to every office they can themselves, and stimulate rivalry and contention among the Whigs for the rest as much as possible. Their labors will be all lost. We think that Gen. TAYLOR will "ask no favors and shrink from no responsibility." At any rate, he will not consult Locofoco newspapers as to whom he shall appoint to his Cabinet and other offices. Those who are thus hard at work at this sort of business, whether Whigs or Locos, will probably find that they "weary themselves from very vanity."

[*Philadelphia News*.]

The Postmaster General has issued orders (we are informed) for the transmission of the President's Annual Message by express to New York, on Tuesday next.

"The Whigs of the Fifth Ward of Boston, at their meeting on Saturday evening, voted that a subscription should be raised to purchase for every poor family of the Ward, without distinction of party, a Thanksgiving Dinner. This is to be their celebration of the election of Gen. TAYLOR."

Well done, true and generous Whigs of the Fifth Ward of Boston!

The New Haven Journal states that there is in that city an Insurance Company to provide for the wants of Destitute Females. By paying the meager sum of \$3 a year, a sick indigent female can receive \$2 per week; and by paying \$6 a year, \$3 per week. Many a poor female during the coming winter months will suffer from the inclemency of the weather and the pinchings of want. Many will be at the mercy of intemperate husbands, who have sworn to cherish and protect them. Yet how quickly will relief be at hand to those who have providentially secured themselves against such emergencies by the payment of this small sum.

Does it not at once strike every city reader of ours how at once inappreciable and beneficial a blessing such an institution would be in our city of Washington, which has perhaps a larger proportion of destitute widows and indigent females than any city in the land?

The snow in New Haven (Conn.) on Monday was about a foot and a half deep. The Springfield Republican estimates it at the same depth in that place.

The Boston Journal states that the snow on the Norwich and Worcester railroad is eight or ten feet deep in places of considerable extent.

TRUE PROGRESS.

The Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS is a burning and a shining light. She is an example of the true progress of a nation—not that barbarian progress in the arts of war and bloodshed of which such conquerors as Alexander, and Tamerlane, and Alaric have furnished the examples—but the progress of human virtue, intelligence, civilization, and true happiness; and the progress which ruins neighboring nations, but that which improves, enriches, exalts, and adorns our own.

Last year the people of Massachusetts voluntarily taxed themselves about a million of dollars for the support of Common Schools. There is not a native born child in the State, old enough to learn, who is not able to read and write. In the city of Boston, during the three months preceding the 10th of April last, \$200,000 were spent in building public school houses. The high school just finished in Cambridge, with two other school houses, cost \$25,000. Another, of splendid and costly character, was lately finished in Charlestown. Another at Newburyport cost \$25,000. Within the last year, individuals have given \$200,000 to Harvard College.

The State is building a reform school for vagrant and exposed children, which will cost more than \$100,000. An unknown individual has given \$50,000 towards it.

The State educates all the deaf, dumb, and blind. Last winter the Legislature made an appropriation to establish a school for idiots.

These are the new charities and works of philanthropy in which Massachusetts is engaged. She has already finished such institutions as other States are now engaged in establishing. She is from thirty to fifty years ahead of the age. Following her example, let all endeavor to progress.—*Trenton Gaz.*

The new Territory of MINNESOTA, in which a Territorial Government has not yet been established, is said to have elected a Delegate to Congress, who will claim his seat from the Territory of Wisconsin. The bill establishing the State of Wisconsin did not repeal the old law governing the Territory; consequently, the settlements not embraced within the State law, it is contended, are still the Territory of Wisconsin, and therefore entitled to a Delegate in Congress.

SCHOOL EXCHANGES.

JOSIAH HOLBROOK, Esq., of New York, and S. S. RANDALL, Esq., former State Superintendent of New York Schools, now residing in Virginia, are about visiting different sections of Virginia "for promoting a 'SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE' between the schools of the 'OLD DOMINION' and the 'EMPIRE STATE,' and, through them, with schools, families, and individuals in other States and countries. In aid of this republican enterprise, parents and teachers are invited to encourage their children and pupils in the use of their pencils or pens in making copies of figures and descriptions; which Messrs. H. and R. will distribute among schools and at public meetings, composed of Virginians, known for their noble and generous spirits. Such an enterprise for such an object gives great energy to young hands animated by warm and generous hearts. Hence, in addition to lessons in drawing, writing, spelling, and reading, furnished in preparing such copies, patriotic feelings are promoted in young minds, and pupils are led to feel that the very best mode of improving themselves is to aid in the improvement of others."—*Alexandria Gazette*.

LOW PRICE OF COTTON.—The Locofocos told the Cotton Planters that a Protective Tariff was prejudicial to their interests. And the cotton planters believed what the Locofocos told them. As proof of their sincerity, they elected Mr. POLK, and he urged through and signed a bill repealing the tariff of 1842. From that day to this the price of cotton has been steadily on the wane, until it is now lower than it has ever before been known. They have a bill approximating to free trade; and with it prices which have bankrupted one-half their number, and nearly beggared the remainder.

[*Albany Journal*.]

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

O. C. PRATT, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States for the Territory of Oregon, in the place of William A. Hall, declined.

GOLD-HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA.—The mania for gold-hunting, which seems to have taken complete possession of the Californians, had not in the least abated at the date of the latest advices. The following letter, which appears in the New York papers, will give some idea of the difficulty in which all vessels on the coast are placed, on account of the desertion of their men:

MONTREY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1848.

Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.:
Sirs: I embrace this opportunity to inform you of my situation, which is bad enough. All hands have left me but two; they will stay till the cargo is landed and ballast in, then they will go. Both master and crew will leave in a few days, and then I will have only the two boys, and I am fearful that they will run. I have got all landed but nine hundred barrels; on Monday I shall get off ballast if the weather is good. There's no help to be got at any price. The store ship that sailed from here ten days ago took three of my men at \$100 per month; there is nothing that anchors here but what loses their men. I have had a hard time in landing the cargo, I go in the boat every day. If I can get it on shore I shall save the freight. As for the ship, she will lay here for a long time, for there's not the least chance of getting a crew. The coasters are giving \$100 per month. All the ships at San Francisco have stripped and laid up. The Flora, of New London, is at San Francisco; all left. You probably have heard of the situation of things here. A sailor will be up at the mines for two months, work on his own account, and come down with two to three thousand dollars, and those who go in parties do much better. I have been offered twenty dollars per day to go, by one of the first men here, and work one year. It is impossible for me to give you any idea of the gold that is got here. Yours, respectfully,

CHRISTOPHER ALLYN,
Captain of the ship Isak Walton.

PROGRESS OF THE WORLD.—Rev. Mr. Poole, a missionary, who has just returned from Ceylon after an absence of thirty-three years, says he never saw a steamboat, railroad car, or magnetic telegraph before his present visit to England and the United States.

Mr. Poole, in alluding to the religious intelligence published in the secular papers, says that Rev. Mr. GALLAUDET and himself, when students at Andover, suggested that "the time might come when there would be newspapers expressly for the diffusion of religious intelligence."

GEOGRAPHICAL.—With a view of advancing the science of Geography, the Smithsonian Institution has just published a series of Elements, computed by Mr. JOHN DOWNS, which are intended to facilitate the computations of such occupations of planets and stars by the moon as will be visible in North America during the year 1849. In preparing his lists, the computer has endeavored to afford every facility for the determination of the longitude of important points in the newly-acquired Territories of Oregon, California, and New Mexico. Copies of this publication are to be forwarded to all persons who may be disposed to advance the cause of science, with the request that the results of the observations which may be made be sent to the Smithsonian Institution, or published in the scientific journals of the country.

MEXICO.

The New Orleans papers have accounts from the city of Mexico to the 9th ultimo.

There appears to be no news of importance. It is stated that an extra session of the Congress has been called, for the purpose of passing a law to authorize the appointment of Commissioners, to act in connexion with those from the United States, in relation to the establishment of the boundary line between the States of New Mexico and California and this republic.

Gen. ALMONTE has been elected to the Senate of Mexico from Oajaca.

The States of Durango and Zacatecas are still suffering from the depredations of the Indians.

Mr. GLASS, English Consul at Tampico, died there on the 14th ultimo.

THE LATE JEREMIAH HUGHES.

The Baltimore Clipper contains the following notice of the recent decease of our late respected fellow-laborer:

We announce with sincere regret the death of JEREMIAH HUGHES, Esq., of this city, which took place on Monday evening, after a brief illness, of consumption. The deceased was about 65 years of age, and for more than a quarter of a century has been associated with the newspaper press of the State. For many years he was the editor of the *Annapolis Republican*, and printer for the State, as well as a member of the Legislature, and took a prominent and influential part in the political and financial affairs of Maryland. After the death of HAZELIAN NILES, Esq., he became the editor and proprietor of that well-known publication, "Niles's Register," which he conducted with that energy and ability that always characterized his life. A few months ago he sold out this publication, and retired from the active pursuits of life. Few men were endowed with such tireless energy, never-ending perseverance, and scrupulous honesty, as the deceased. As a friend, he was kind and steadfast; as a neighbor, beloved by all; and as a citizen enterprising and useful to the community in which he lived. In fact, his whole life was marked by the shining virtues of a good man, and a sincere and devoted Christian. He leaves a large family and numerous relatives and friends to lament his death.

IMPROVEMENTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.—We have already alluded to the improvements, in the way of grading, &c., which are being made on the south side of the President's house; and we now chronicle with additional pleasure the changes taking place opposite the Executive mansion, on Pennsylvania avenue. The paving is progressing with vigor, and we should suppose the entire street in front of the public buildings would be finished within a fortnight. The two pieces of wooden fence, which have heretofore disfigured the sidewalk in front of the State and War Departments, have been torn down, and in their stead an iron fence is being erected. It is quite handsome to look at, but it strikes us that if it had been nearly twice as heavy the fence would have been better served. The builder of this fence is Mr. M. P. COONS, of Lansingburg, (N. Y.) who receives only \$1 50 per foot, or \$900 for 600 feet of the work. He tells us that he would gladly have erected a heavier fence, but the appropriation made by Congress for this purpose was too small to warrant the Commissioner of Public Buildings in bargaining for a more substantial work. The iron, however, of which the fence is built is the softest and best in quality, and the castings, in appearance, are all that could have been desired. They are from the foundry of B. ARNOLD & SONS, of Poughkeepsie, (N. Y.) and reflect much credit upon their style of workmanship.

THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

Among the improvements which have recently been made at the Capitol we notice with pleasure the re-arranging of the Library room at the northern end of the Capitol. Not only has it been newly carpeted, but several new cases have been erected, and the books are now all arranged in the best possible order. A goodly number of new volumes have also been added during the recess. After having been closed for about a month past, the entire Library was thrown open for the first time on Saturday last, and the polite gentlemen who superintend its affairs are again at their posts of duty.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The Hon. HORACE MANN concluded his argument on Wednesday, on the first appeal, in the case of *Daniel Drayton vs. the United States*. Yesterday Mr. HELDRETH addressed the Court for some time in the second appeal case, and was followed by the District Attorney in reply. The pleadings were not ended when the Court adjourned; they will be resumed this morning. It is expected the Court will make no decision in these important cases until to-morrow, when the Court will probably adjourn until the next term in course.

LECTURES TO YOUNG MEN on the cultivation of the mind, the formation of character, and the conduct of life," by GEORGE W. BURNAP. Mr. John Murphy has just published, in beautiful style, with a portrait of the author, the third edition of these admirable lectures. We are not surprised that they should have had a rapid and extensive sale, for they cannot be otherwise than highly appreciated by any one who reads them. They contain certain sentiments, expressed in beautiful language; and are well calculated to impress young men with the importance of cultivating their minds, and thus fitting themselves for more elevated and useful stations in life. The author successfully combats the idea which extensively prevails that, unless a young man can procure a classical education, it will be useless to strive for eminence, and shows that some of the most distinguished men of the world were self-taught. He says: "That education, I honestly believe, is best, which mingles books with business, action with meditation, theory with practice, interchange solitude with society." There can be no doubt that this practical knowledge is within the reach of every young man who will diligently seek it; and that it will be more useful to its possessor than mere book knowledge. The poet says:

"The proper study of mankind is man."

and he who would successfully pass through life must be well acquainted with human nature, and hence Mr. BURNAP recommends combining business with books; "theory with practice;" and we may add, common sense with erudition; for, after all, common sense is the most valuable acquisition.

[*Baltimore Clipper*.]

NEW COMET.—It appears by the annexed letter that on the evening of last Saturday a telescopic comet was discovered at the Cambridge Observatory (Mass.) by Mr. GEORGE P. BOND, a gentleman who has discovered five or six telescopic comets in advance of any other observer in this country. In one of these cases (18th February, 1846) he preceded the European observers; but, the regulations not having been complied with in communicating information of the discovery, the medal was awarded to Father de Vico, who saw it at Rome on the 20th.

DEAR SIR: On Saturday evening, at 6h. 30m., a telescopic comet was discovered at this Observatory by Mr. George P. Bond. It is situated in the constellation Cygnus. h. m. s. 1848, Nov. 25th—6 57 A. R. 20 35 11 North declination.....37° 21' 50" Its motion is towards the south. With great respect,
W. C. BOND.
President EVERETT.

THE OLDEST VOTER IN AMERICA.—Mr. HOGGINS, a revolutionary soldier, in the 107th year of his age, was taken to the polls at Rockbridge county, Virginia, at the late election, by a friend in a carriage drawn by four horses.

EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 30.

I observe that the business of Cabinet making is still progressing by those most efficient in that intricate art, and every State in the Union is made to share more or less in the forthcoming Cabinet. To this a due sense of liberality forbids my objecting. It brings to view many of the prominent statesmen of the nation, and shows that old Zach will not be in want of good and substantial material to meet his views and wishes. While my hand is in, allow me to introduce to public notice, in this connexion, the name of that veteran stanch Whig, the Hon. SAMUEL SERRIO, formerly Governor of Maryland. He has always stood firm and erect in the worst of times, when storm and tempest threatened, braving all dangers—true as the needle to the pole, never veering about to catch the popular breeze. His manliness, good sense, blair and accomplished manners, make him admirably fitted to fill a post in the Cabinet. So far as my humble judgment goes, his elevation to that high office would be gratifying to all of the old Maryland line, he having been always first and foremost in defence of sound principles. I have merely thought that, while distinguished gentlemen in other States are spoken of with reference to the Cabinet, I might be allowed, without any desire to prejudice, to speak of the above named gentleman in behalf of Maryland.

I regret to announce the death of ROBERT GLENCOE, Esq., one of our oldest and most prominent merchants and most highly esteemed citizens. He died this morning about eight o'clock, of asthma, after a lingering illness, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was emphatically a gentleman of the old school, and in his day and generation has been foremost in all the enterprises tending to advance not only the city's interest, but the arts and sciences and the cause of benevolence. His name is widely known, and he goes down to the grave deeply lamented. Few men have lived and died in our midst enjoying, preserving, and leaving behind them a purer reputation.

A company is about forming in this city to proceed to California in search of gold. It is not much to be wondered at that such an expedition should be gotten up, when they receive such encouraging information as is obtained in the following letter received by a merchant of this city:

"SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 14, 1848.—As to the richness of the mine, we were to set down half the truth it would be looked upon in other countries as a 'Sinbad' story, or the history of 'Aladdin's Lamp,' which required that the possessor should but wish and his wishes were accomplished. Many persons have culled in one day, of the finest grade gold, from three to eight hundred dollars, and for many days together averaged from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty dollars."

"Although this is not universal, yet the general average is so well settled that when a man with his pan or basket does not easily gather thirty to forty dollars in a day he must be in another place; so that taking the general average, including the time spent in moving from place to place and in looking for better 'diggings,' we are of the opinion that we may safely set down an ounce of pure gold (or sixteen dollars) per day to the man. Supposing there are four thousand persons at work, they will add to the aggregate wealth of the territory about four thousand ounces, or sixty thousand dollars a day."

Other letters from the Pacific, received here this morning by the overland mail route via Panama and Kingston, state that some fifty millions worth of gold had already been gathered.

One says that at the time of writing there were seventeen casks lying in the harbor of San Francisco, their crews having deserted and gone to the gold region. The excitement along the whole coast was said to be very great, and was extending.

Col. WILLIAM TURNBULL, of the corps of topographical engineers, now engaged in constructing the new custom-house at New Orleans, has sent by the big *Annapolis*, bound to Georgetown, for the National Institute, the jaws, saw, part of the back-bone, and an egg of a very large fish caught at the mouth of the Mississippi river. It is presented by Mr. GEO. B. BOWDITCH, of the custom-house, who caught it.

A THANKSGIVING DAY ANECDOTE.—The Hagerstown (Md.) Pledge tells the following story of two men from Pennsylvania, who came to that town to sell marketing on Thanksgiving Day:

When they entered the town they were very much astonished at hearing the church bells ring, and seeing the stores and shops all shut up, and people all dressed in their Sunday rigging. As they approached the square, the wag, who was near, seeing how the matter stood, observed, "Don't you know this is Sunday?" They both declared they did not. Then said the wag, "this is Sunday, and if the police come across you selling your marketing to-day, you will find it out to your cost." The men soon began to think of leaving, not, however, before remarking "that they could not account for their being Sunday; but, as their altitudes did not allow tell the truth in regard to the falling of rain and snow on the day appointed, they were just as liable to make a mistake as regards the day on which Sunday might fall as in any thing else." And, said they, "the people in our parts are all working to-day, and in fact we did not know of to-day being Sunday." The men then disappeared.

We understand (says the Boston Daily Advertiser) that the King of Denmark has directed the Comet Medal, founded by one of his predecessors, to be awarded to Miss MARIA MITCHELL, of Nantucket, for her discovery of the telescopic comet of the 1st of October, 1847. In consequence of the non-observance of the formalities required in announcing the discovery, the Trustees (Professor Schumacher, of Altona, and Mr. Airy, of Greenwich) felt themselves unable, in the first instance, to award the medal to Miss Mitchell. On referring the case to Copenhagen, an inquiry into the facts was ordered; the result of which being favorable to Miss Mitchell, the medal has, by direction of the King, been awarded to her. It is believed that this is the first instance in which the Comet Medal of the King of Denmark has been awarded to a lady. Miss Mitchell's comet was first seen in Europe by Father de Vico, at Rome, on the 3d of October, 1847.

SWEDISH COLONIZATION.—A letter from Stockholm, under date of October 20, states that a ship commanded by Captain Lagaklow, had just sailed from that port for TAHITI, with about three hundred laborers and mechanics of all trades, who had been invited by Mr. BORNEMANN, the Swedish Consul, to come to that island for the purpose of founding a colony there. They were engaged in the first place under a contract with Mr. Bornemann for a term of five years, to establish certain manufactures, and among others that of palm oil, and also soap and cocoa. The ship carried out all descriptions of necessary furniture, instruments, and tools necessary for the colony, two framed houses, of wood and iron, and a library of the best works in Swedish, ancient and modern. This library is a gift contributed by the booksellers of Stockholm, with a view that the Swedish language might be preserved among the future colonists, and perpetuated among their descendants.

QUESTION FOR THE CURIOUS.—If a man leaves London on Monday at noon, and travel west with the apparent speed of the sun, so as to make the circuit of the earth in 24 hours, when and where would the inhabitants first tell him it was Tuesday noon?

The above query, taken from a Philadelphia weekly paper, simple as it may appear at first glance, will puzzle and afford much amusement to any of your readers who will take the trouble of giving it a little thought, and if they give it a little thought, my word for it they will have to give it a good deal before they arrive at any satisfactory solution.—*Patriot*.

A HORRIBLE STORY.—Mr. Morris, one of the proprietors of an extensive foundry in Galena, Illinois, had become involved, and some half dozen of his creditors had obtained mortgages on his property, and were about to push him. Mr. Harris was passing the foundry recently, Mr. Morris called to him and shot him dead on the sidewalk; then rushed into the foundry, shot Mr. Ross, and attempted the lives of several others, but without success. Morris then fled to his house and shot himself dead on the spot.

A FESTIVE MEETING.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

On the evening of the 25th instant a number of the citizens of Maryland, friends of Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR and Hon. MILLARD FILLMORE, assembled at the "Relay House," near Baltimore, to congratulate each other upon their late glorious victory.

At the suggestion and under the supervision of our highly-esteemed fellow-citizen, DENNIS A. SMITH, Esq., a most sumptuous and tasteful dinner was served up by the kind hostess, Mrs. LOWE, in her admirable style, abounding in all the delicacies of the season and the choicest wines.

The company sat down at 5 o'clock P. M. Z. COLLINS, Esq., officiating as President of the evening, and Col. LEAS MURKIN as Vice President.

We noticed as invited guests on the right and left of the President, Colonel TAYLOR, brother of the General, and the Hon. ELISHA WHITTELEY, of Ohio.

After doing ample justice to the dinner, the cloth was removed, when Mr. LEE, the President, rose, and with some eloquent remarks, proposed the following crowning sentiment of the occasion:

General ZACHARY TAYLOR, President elect of the United States: His election is a national triumph—his administration of the Government will secure and perpetuate national prosperity and glory.

Which was received with rapturous applause, and drunk in flowing cups, and with long and continued cheering.

The Vice President being called on, gave:

MILLARD FILLMORE, Vice President elect:

"His office

Lends him no grace he does not pay it back.

Though it had been the highest of the high,